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COUNTY LAND PURCHASE Q & A

The County has purchased land. What are the next steps?

The subdivision of the 80 acre parcel of land purchased in 2014 is complete. The County followed the Planning and Development and the Municipal Planning Commission's approval process, just like any other parcel of land changing hands. Up next is rezoning, from the Agricultural District to the Public Service District.

Will we build?

Administration has begun the investigation of building options, costs and timelines. As mentioned in the previous County Connection, Council will decide based on estimates, interest rates and budget whether to proceed with a County Complex that would house all County operations, or to divide this project into stages beginning with a Public Works shop based largely on the cost-benefit vs. needs analysis currently in progress. In our 2015 Budget document, \$600,000 was allocated for further investigation and repair of deficiencies in the Public Works shop, or to put towards a new building. Council has chosen to move forward with building, rather than put money into a 44 year old building.

What will we build?

The County completed a Needs Assessment Survey in 2012. This addressed current spacial needs and future projections. Departments are currently reviewing this Needs Assessment Survey and updating it based on more current knowledge of today's business and spacial needs. While it is impossible to see into the future, we will try to predict how 20-30 years from now these needs may change and how we will be able to adapt and ensure we build the most efficiently today, accommodating the future as well. The vision of Council is for a modest, functional design

commensurate with the values of the County community.

How will we build it?

Our next step is to choose the best way of moving forward. There are two methods under review: Design-Build or Bid-Build. At this stage, we believe Design-Build Procurement will be the more beneficial method and we are pursuing proposals from qualified Design-Build firms as a first step in identifying a relationship to move forward with. However all options will be thoroughly investigated and all current and future needs quantifiably assessed.

How much will it cost?

There are many variables that will contribute to the overall project cost, including staged construction options, anticipated costs today vs. anticipated future costs, inflation and interest. Once a design has been chosen and detailed cost estimates established we will be able to provide estimated project costs.

Will ratepayers have input?

Absolutely. The County of Stettler has a strong commitment and a measurable track record of being transparent and open with our ratepayers.

We just held our 2015 Draft Budget open house on January 7, inviting input from all of our ratepayers. We also recently visited the hamlet of Erskine in December for a Public Meeting to hear concerns and questions from ratepayers in the area.

As we move forward with this project, the public will be notified and have the opportunity to attend several public forums to provide input and join in the discussion. As always, we encourage everyone to participate. We value your feedback.